

DENISELL HOLLIS Esq;

HIS
SPEECH

At the delivery of the
PROTESTATION TO
the Lords of the upper House

of Parliament, 4. May, 1641.

Wherein is set forth the reasons that
moved the house of Commons to make
the said PROTESTATION:

Together with
A Short Narration of the severall grievances
of the KINGDOME.



London Printed, 1641.



The Speech of Master Holles Esquire.
My Lords,

THe Knights, and Burgeſſes, of the houſe of Commons, having taken into conſideration the preſent eſtate and condition of this Kingdome, they finde ſurrounded with variety of pernicious and deſtructive deſignes, practiſes and plots, againſt the wel-being of it, nay, the very being of it, and ſome of theſe deſignes hatched within our owne bowels, and Viper-like working our owne deſtruction.

They finde Jeſuits and Priests conſpiring with ill Miniſters of State to deſtroy our religion, they finde ill Miniſters conjoynd together to ſubvert our Lawes and liberties; they finde obſtructions of juſtice, which is the life and blood of every eſtate, and having free paſſage from the Sovereigne power, where it is primarily ſeated as the life and blood in the heart, and thence derived through the judicatories, or through ſo many veines into all the parts of this great Collective Body, doth give warmth and motion to every part and member which is nourished and enlivened by it, but being once precluded, ſtopped, and reared up, as the particular muſt needs faint, and languish, ſo muſt the whole frame of Government be diſſolved.

And conſequently, Sovereignty it ſelfe which (as the heart in the body,) is *primum vivens, & ultimum moriens*, muſt die and periſh in the generall diſſolution, and all things as in the beginning *in antiquum Chaos*.

My Lords, They finde the property of the ſubject invaded and violated, his eſtate reft from him by illegal taxation, Monopolies, and projects almoſt upon every thing that is for the uſe of man, not only upon ſuperfluities, but neceſſaries, and that to enrich the Vermine and Caterpillers of the State, and impoveriſh good ſubjects, to take the Meſſe from the Children, and give it to Dogs.

My Lords, If the Commons finde theſe things, they conceive they muſt needs bee ill Counſels that have brought us into this condition. Theſe

These Counsels have put all into a combustion, have discouraged the hearts of all true English men, and brought two Armies into our bowels, which is the Vulture upon *Prometheus*, eates through, and sucks and gnawes our very hearts out. *Hic Dolor, sed ubi Medicina?*

Heretofore Parliaments were the Catholickall, the balme of Gilead, which healed our wounds, restored our spirits, and made up the breaches of the Land.

But of late yeares they have been like the fig-tree in the Gospell, without efficacy, without fruit, only destructive to their particular members, who discharged their duties and consciences, no way beneficiall to the Common-wealth. *Nobis exitiale, nec Reipublica profuturum*, As he said in *Tacitus*, being taken away still as *Elias* was with a whirle-winde, never comming to any maturity, or to their naturall end, whereas they should be like the blessed old man, who dyeth, *plenus dierum*, in a full age after he had fought a good fight, and overcome all his enemies, or as the shock of wheat, which commeth in due season to fill our Granaries with Corne, uphold our lives with the staffe of bread, for Parliaments are our *panis quotidianus*, our true bread, all other waies are but *Quelkachoos* which yeeld no true nourishment, bread, nor good blood.

The very Parliament which hath sate so long, hath but beat the aire, and strive against the streame, I may truly say the winde and tide hath been still against us. The same ill Counsell which first raised the storme, and almost shipwrackt the Common-wealth, they still continue, they blow strong like the East winde that brought the Locusts over our Counsels, crosse our designs, cast difficulties in our way, hinder our proceedings, and make all that we doe to be fruitlesse and ineffectuall: They make us not masters of our businesse, and so not masters of money, which have been the great businesse of this Parliament, that we might pay the Armies, according to our promises and engagements.

For my Lords, our not effecting of the good things
which

which we had undertaken, for the good of the Church,
and of the Common wealth, hath wounded our reputa-
tion, and taken off from our credit.

Is it not time then my Lords, that we should unite
and concentrate our selves, in regard of this *Antiperista-
sis*, of hurtfull and malicious intentions and practices
against us?

My Lords, it is most agreeable to nature; and I am
sure most agreeable to reason, in respect of the present
conjuncture of our affaires; for one maine engine by
which our enemies worke our mischiefe, is by infusing
an opinion and beliefe into the world, that we are not
united among our selves. But like *Sampsons* Foxes, wee
draw severall waies, and tend to severall ends.

To defeat the Counsels of these *Achitophels*, which
would involve us, Our Religion, our being, our Lawes,
our liberties, all that can be neare and deare unto an ho-
nest soule, in one universall and generall desolation; to
defeat I say, the Counsels of evill *Achitophels*; the
Knights, Citizens & Burgesses of the house of commons
(knowing themselves to be specially entrusted with the
preservation of the whole, and in their Conscience are
perswaded that the dangers are so eminent, as they will
admit of no delay) have thought fit to declare their uni-
ted affections by entring into an association amongst
themselves, and by making a solemne protestation and
vow unto their God, that they will unanimously endea-
vour to oppose and prevent the Counsels and Counsel-
lors which have brought upon us all these miseries, and
the feares of greater, to prevent the ends and bring
Authors of them to condigne punishment, and thereby
discharge themselves better before God and man.

The Protestation your Lordships shall have read un-
to you, together with the ground and reasons which have
induced the house of Commons to make it, which are
prefixed before it by way of Preamble. Then the Pro-
testation was read by *M. Maynard*.

FINIS.



